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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET				
SUBJECT: (Optional) Monthly Report -- Swaziland Bureau				
FROM: Chief, Operations Group		EXTENSION <input type="text"/>	NO. DATE February 1988 STAT	
TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
	RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. C/MOD				
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11. C/Computer Operations				
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14.				
15. Retain/Destroy				

P.O. Box 199
Mbabane, Swaziland

2 March 1988
FBIS-5807-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Swaziland Bureau--February 1988

I. GENERAL

On 29 February, the new Embassy Health Unit opened for business. The unit, which is funded proportionally by all Embassy components, was created in response to the demand for medical services which was more than the Peace Corps nurse could handle. It is staffed by two registered nurses and an administrative assistant and is open to all U.S. personnel during regular business hours for routine medical complaints and tests.

II. OPERATIONAL

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The South African Government took another step against antiapartheid opposition groups in the country on 24 February when it banned or restricted 18 organizations. The affected groups include the United Democratic Front, an umbrella organization including most of the legal extra-parliamentary opposition, and the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the largest labor organization. The orders effectively prohibit the organizations from carrying on any activities other than administrative functions. The move aroused vociferous condemnation and vows of defiance from virtually all opposition to the left of the National Party and from most foreign governments. The main opposition Conservative Party, on the other hand, said the bans did not go far enough. At least four of the affected groups intend to fight the restrictions in court. A large group of religious leaders, including Nobel Peace Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu, were arrested and briefly detained when they tried to present a petition protesting the move to President P.W. Botha.

2. An attempted coup against the government of the homeland of Bophuthatswana was quickly thwarted by South African troops on 10 February. In a virtually bloodless assault, RSA forces routed the small group of rebel soldiers and rescued the president, Lucas Mangope. In a show of solidarity, RSA President P.W. Botha, along with the foreign and defense ministers, visited Mangope and pledged full support for the homeland government.

3. On 19 February, a bomb destroyed a bank in the Namibian

town of Oshakati, killing 26 people and injuring many more, making it the worst such disaster ever in Namibia. Although the Namibian rebel group SWAPO denied responsibility, RSA aircraft conducted retaliatory attacks on SWAPO training bases in neighboring Angola on 20 and 21 February.

4. After apparently accepting the principle of a total Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola, during talks with Chester Crocker at the end of January, the Angolan Government sought to distance itself from this concession by correcting U.S. "disinformation" on the subject. In a series of communiques and speeches by various officials, including President Dos Santos, the Angolans raised the possibility of direct negotiations with the RSA if that government rejected U.S. mediation. The Angolans continued to insist that any Cuban withdrawal was conditional on the cessation of all support for UNITA and steadfastly refused to consider negotiations with the rebel group.

5. Meanwhile, the fighting around the strategic Angolan town of Cuito Cuanavale intensified. The Angolans claimed a new offensive by 7,000 RSA troops backed by tanks and artillery had been repulsed with heavy losses, including six RSA aircraft. South Africa confirmed that its withdrawal from Angola was slower than anticipated and that "limited offensive action" had been necessary. The South Africans also claimed victory while admitting to the loss of 10 soldiers and 1 aircraft.

B. Communications

Communications outages of varying lengths on 2, 4, 5, 6-7, 10, 19-20, and 25 February necessitated extensive use of Telex for high-precedence material and numerous refiles of garbled items.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

An Afrikaans monitor candidate was placed in processing to fill the remaining vacancy in the African Languages Section. A promising candidate for the vacancy in the Portuguese Section was dropped when it was learned that he had just become a U.S. citizen. Recruitment efforts will now concentrate on South Africa.

B. Building and Grounds

A new front door lock with an electronic release button at the admin assistant's desk and the duty editor position was installed to provide better bureau access control.

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Chief, Swaziland Bureau